

Message Text

PAGE 01 STATE 179764

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ORIGIN PM-03

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

INFO SECDEF

CNO

CINCPACFLT MAKALAPA

CINCPAC HONOLULU

COMSUBPAC

COMNAVSEASCOM

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 179764

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: MNUC, NZ

SUBJECT: NPW VISITS - ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT

REFERENCES: (A) AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON 1989; (B) NAVY
REPORT NT-75-1 OF MAY 75

1. REF A REQUESTED COPIES OF ANY AVAILABLE ENVIRONMENTAL
IMPACT REPORTS ON NPW VISITS TO U.S. PORTS FOR USE BY
EMBASSY IN CONNECTION WITH GNZ REVIEW OF POLICY ON NPW
PORT ENTRY.
2. REF B IS THE LATEST ISSUE OF A COMPREHENSIVE ANNUAL
REPORT PREPARED BY THE NAVY ON THE ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING
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PAGE 02 STATE 179764

AND DISPOSAL OF RADIOACTIVE WASTES FROM U.S. NUCLEAR
POWERED SHIPS AND THEIR SUPPORT FACILITIES. THIS REPORT
SUMMARIZES DATA FOR 1974 ON DISPOSAL OF RADIOACTIVE WASTES
FROM ALL NPW AND SUPPORT FACILITIES AND THE RESULTS OF

ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING PERFORMED TO CONFIRM THE ADEQUACY OF WASTE DISPOSAL LIMITS AND PROCEDURES.

3. THIS REPORT SHOWS THAT IN 1974 (AS HAS BEEN THE CASE FOR THE PREVIOUS THREE YEARS) THE TOTAL RADIOACTIVITY DISCHARGED TO ALL PORTS AND HARBORS, FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC, FROM THE MORE THAN ONE HUNDRED NPW, AND SUPPORTING TENDERS,

BASES AND SHIPYARDS WAS LESS THAN 0.002 (TWO THOUSANDTHS) OF A CURIE. AS ANOTHER MEASURE OF THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS EFFORT, 0.002 CURIE OF RADIOACTIVITY IS LESS THAN THE QUANTITY OF NATURALLY OCCURRING RADIOACTIVITY IN THE VOLUME OF SALINE WATER DISPLACED BY A SINGLE ONE OF OUR NUCLEAR POWERED SUBMARINES. IN ADDITION, IF ONE PERSON WERE ABLE TO DRINK THE ENTIRE VOLUME OF RADIOACTIVE WATER DISCHARGED INTO ANY HARBOR BY ALL NPW IN THAT HARBOR DURING 1974, HE WOULD NOT HAVE EXCEEDED THE ANNUAL RADIATION EXPOSURE PERMITTED BY THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION ON RADIOLOGICAL PROTECTION FOR ITS EMPLOYEES OR LICENSEES.

4. TWO COPIES OF THIS REPORT WERE POUCHED TO EMBASSY ON JULY 25 FOR INFORMATION. A COPY OF THIS REPORT IS BEING SENT ALSO TO THE U.S. NAVAL ATTACHE, WELLINGTON AND THE CHIEF OF NAVY STAFF, NEW ZEALAND DEFENSE STAFF UNDER COVER OF LETTER FROM THE CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS. A COPY OF THE REPORT COVERING THE YEAR 1973 WAS PREVIOUSLY DISTRIBUTED IN THE SAME MANNER. WHILE WE HAVE NO OBJECTION TO DISTRIBUTING THIS REPORT TO OTHER GNZ OFFICIALS IT HAS NOT APPEARED NECESSARY BECAUSE IN DISCUSSING NPW ENTRY WITH NEW ZEALAND THE ISSUE OF NPW ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS HAS NOT BEEN RAISED. PRIOR TO FURTHER DISTRIBUTION OF THE REPORT, WE WOULD APPRECIATE ANY INFORMATION AVAILABLE TO EMBASSY WHICH INDICATES GNZ IS CONSIDERING OR IS CONCERNED WITH ENVIRONMENTAL ASPECTS OF NPW OPERATION. INGERSOLL

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